

Could a greenback that's a 'yellowback' be worth more than a dollar?

By Roger Boye

Today's column answers questions about U. S. paper money, an always-popular collectible.

Q—My \$1 bill of series 1985 has a yellow "tails side." Why isn't the color green?

J. G., Niles

A—The ink on the back side of Federal Reserve notes can turn

yellow if treated with certain alkalis and blue if treated with acids. Your "yellowback" has no special value on the hobby market.

Q—When and why did the U. S. Treasury stop exchanging \$1 silver certificates for the actual silver? The words "One dollar in silver payable to the bearer on demand" are on each bill.

W. R., Wheaton

A—The action was taken in 1968 to halt a run on stockpiles of government silver. The paper certificates remain lawful money, but Congress has voided the so-called "redemption clause."

Q—Is there any importance to the fact that paper money from the Chicago Federal Reserve bank carries a large "G"?

J. L., Joliet
A—No. The Federal Reserve

led to establishment
Act of 1913 established 12 Federal Reserve districts, and officials arbitrarily picked "G" and "7" to signify the Chicago-based district.

Q—At a flea market we bought several \$2 bills with attached postage stamps cancelled on April 13, 1976. Is our money rare?

P. W., Chicago

A—No. Thousands of people had their \$2 Federal Reserve

notes, series 1976, cancelled on April 13, 1976, the "first day of issue." The supply of such post-marked bills exceeds demand from collectors.

● Questions about coins or paper money? Send your queries to Roger Boye, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply.